



SENATE TAXATION
EXHIBIT NO. 11
DATE 4.17.09
BILL NO. SR 36
We provide programs and develop
partnerships that help youth, individuals,
and families achieve economic independence.

April 16, 2009

Chairman Essmann and Members of the Senate Taxation Committee:

I am writing to support the reconfirmation of Mr. Dan Bucks as Director of the Montana Department of Revenue. As Executive Director of Rural Dynamics, Inc., I oversee our organization's participation in Tax Help Montana, a network of organizations providing free tax preparation to low-income individuals at 32 sites across Montana. Tax Help Montana has prepared over 5,600 Federal returns in the last three years and is the only no-cost tax prep service to work in reservation communities.

Tax Help Montana and the thousands of people we serve have benefited by many of the improvements and efficiencies the Department has instituted under Director Bucks' leadership. In the last two years, the Department has worked with taxpayers to rewrite the individual income tax forms to make them more usable and to ensure that all taxpayers have full disclosure of tax provisions that could minimize their tax bills.

Perhaps more importantly, Director Bucks has overseen the expansion of electronic filing options and has worked in partnership with non-profit organizations like ours to increase access to tax filing assistance. Since Director Bucks was appointed in January, 2005, e-filing of individual income taxes has increased by over 70%. Last year over 65% of all tax returns were filed online, a higher percentage than all but five other states in the country.

I encourage you to support the reconfirmation of Director Bucks and thank him for the immense work he and his staff have done to assist Montana taxpayers.

Regards,

Tom Jacobson
Executive Director
Rural Dynamics, Inc.